



Letter from the Chair

Firstly I must thank Marion Stephens-Cockroft for agreeing to take over as editor of the newsletter. Marion grew up in Pelynt parish where her parents farmed. Some of you will remember her mother, Thelma Stephens, a long time member of CALH. We visited their farm at Trelay on several occasions and it was on our last visit, back in 2004, that CALH member Colin Squires discovered the remains of a four-holed cross built into the garden wall of the old (now disused) farmhouse. What remained of the pre-conquest preaching cross was restored and is now displayed within Pelynt Church. I have known Marion since she was a young girl, indeed, back in the 1960's she was one of my first customers when I opened my riding school at Trelawne. She has lived in Canada for many years but we have always kept in touch and, after her mother's death a few years ago, she joined CALH on behalf of the Toronto Cornish Association, which she has chaired. When she visited earlier this year I just happened to mention that our newsletter editor, who lived in Florida, was retiring and we couldn't find anyone to take his place. In Church the next morning Marion said she had been thinking about the editor's job and thought she would like to have a go. Wonderful!! And I hadn't even (technically) had to ask her, although I had hoped. So, welcome

NEWSLETTER

November 2019

Our Place on the Internet

www.calh.co.uk

Email us on

calhnewsletter@gmail.com

AGM & Spring Conference March 7 – 9, 2020

'Clothing in Cornwall: Vanity & Utility.'

Presentations & Speakers

Saturday

Through the Middle Ages to the Reformation in Cornwall. - Dr Joanna Mattingly

"The fashion in new fangledness" (a quote from Richard Carew) – Christine Edwards

Demonstration of Hatmaking & Mediaeval Costumes - Katrina Wood

The Development of Military Uniform in Cornwall - Nick Kelly

Costumes in Lewis Harding's photographs - Jeremy Rowett-Johns

Sunday

A newly restored archive film of Croggon's Tannery - Grampound Heritage Centre.

The inventories and bequests of John Clickerd (died 1606) and of his wife, Temperance (died 1619). - Angela Aylward

A guide to dating old photographs with the help of clothing. - Marilyn Thompson

Dress Fastenings from Cornwall - Anna Tyacke

'Costume's Hidden Stories' - Andrea Newell

'The Legacy of Crysede': the history of the textile industry in Penwith - Janet Axten

Kilbirnie Hotel, Newquay
Booking form enclosed

as editor Marion and, on behalf of all the members, thank you so much for taking on the job.

Now, we still haven't had anyone come forward to take on our website so it is unlikely you will receive any block emails for the foreseeable future. A great shame as many groups email bulk mailing. As things stand at present, this newsletter is the last contact we will have with you all until the February newsletter. There will be no reminders sent out electronically, about our own or other people's events. As you all know I am not particularly good where computers and emails are concerned but I am sure our treasurer Hugh (0796 920 6292) would be happy to explain what is involved in taking on the job and other committee members will help you.

On a lighter note, the last of our outside visits for this year was held at Fowey where the local history group did a splendid job of entertaining and informing us about their lovely town. The original Fowey History Group were one of the first to be formed in Cornwall by Veronica Chesher, and many of their members were also members of CALH (also formed by Veronica and others). The Fowey Group did some splendid research work over the years and produced several books, as well as putting on regular exhibitions.

Sadly, with the loss of several of their hardest working members the group declined, but in recent times it has been resurrected and the Fowey History Group is now as thriving as it was back in the early days. Our day with them started with Dr. Helen Doe giving a talk on the history of the town. As per usual Helen's talk was full of information and really set the scene for the day. I am also pleased to report that, having badgered her for well over 20 years, Helen has finally joined CALH. Indeed we have had several new members this year and our numbers are holding up well. On our Fowey day we visited the museum in the centre of town and several of us were delighted to see they had a very good collection of 'Shallowpool Dolls' in one of the display cabinets. There is an article about these dolls in the 2017 edition of

our journal. Molly Boxall from Pelynt was especially pleased to see them as she had actually worked at the doll factory for several years when a young girl. Needless to say she and the curator had a long talk about the dolls and Peggy Price who made them. Peggy is about to celebrate her 101st birthday and photographs were taken of the displays so she could be shown them. The Fowey day also included an informative walk around the town and a very good talk in the beautiful church. We were also able to see some of the splendid panelling in what used to be the Rashleigh town house (now a pub) but unfortunately we were unable to see the roof trusses above what is now 'Haveners' on the Quay as it had holiday makers staying in the first floor flat. However, several of us had a cream tea in the restaurant beneath. This was the last of our outdoor meetings to be organised by Marilyn and Ian Thompson and I would like to thank them, on your behalf, for all the splendid days they have organised for us over many years. Our new outings secretary Lynn May already has most of the dates sorted for next year's outings so do make a note of them.

Our one day indoor conference at the Kilbirnie Hotel in Newquay, organised by our secretary Joan, was a great success. It started with a small choir, 'Oll an Gwella' from Newquay, who kept us roaring with laughter over the words they had put to some old Cornish tunes. I will never be able to eat a pasty again without thinking about the 2 inch long supermarket one they sang about. We then had a splendid talk by John Friend who was a Looe fisherman for many years. He kept us well entertained with his stories of life at sea. Prof. Gareth Parry then kept us fascinated with his story of the Telegraph Station at Porthcurno and the important part it played, for so many years, in world events. Lunch was of its usual high standard, roast beef etc, but if anyone thought they would be able to take a short nap in the afternoon they were in for a surprise. Merv and Alison Davey are such splendid entertainers, and so knowledgeable on the history of Cornish music, dance and folklore that none of us even thought about nodding off. Another splendid day, thank you Joan.

Our next gathering will be the two-day Spring Conference in March. The subject is '*Clothing in Cornwall - Vanity and Utility*'. Marilyn assures me this conference will not just be of interest to the female members of the society and that it will be looking at some of the more quirky aspects of wearing apparel through the ages. I am delighted that Marilyn and Ian have agreed to continue to organise the Spring Conference and that Ian is happy to continue to provide the projector and sound system for the indoor events.

March seems a long time away but once we get over Christmas it will soon be upon us so don't forget to send in your booking forms in good time. I find it best to send them off as soon as they arrive so I know I am booked. Provided a reasonable amount of notice is given refunds will usually be sent if you find, at a later date, that you are unable to attend.

Don't forget CALH can only continue to thrive so long as you, the members, continue to support it, by sending in articles for the journal, notes for the newsletter, attending events and volunteering to organise days and help with the committee. I wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you at Newquay in 2020.

Your Chairman
Carole Vivian
[Tel:\(01503\) 272309](tel:01503272309).
email: carolevivian309@btinternet

CALH Annual General Meeting

There will be an Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 7 March, 2020 beginning at 10:30 a.m.
at the Kilbirnie Hotel, Narrowcliff, Newquay, TR7 2RS.

2020 Subscription Reminder

Your membership subscription becomes due for payment on 1st January. Current rates are:

- Ordinary members £15
- Joint members £25
- Corporate members £15

If you pay by standing order, please check with your bank that you are paying the correct amount. You can also pay by BACS through your internet bank account. Our account details are:
Sort Code 30-12-74. Account No. 07789383

If you choose to pay by cheque, send it together with your membership number and address to - **CALH Hon. Treasurer, 77 Bodrigan Road, Looe, Cornwall PL13 1EH.**

Please note due to the introduction of automation by Lloyds Bank, cheques must be made payable to Cornwall Association of Local Historians **AND NOT** CALH.

News From Kresen Kernow

After five months of moving the collections to their new home, Kresen Kernow, the new archive centre for Cornwall, opened its doors in September.

Over three thousand people came to the community launch, which tied in with Redruth's International Mining and Pasty Festival. The Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, Edward Bolitho OBE formally open the building and throughout the day people enjoyed performances by Cornish bands and choirs, including a piece composed specifically for the opening event, and took part in tours and free family activities. There was also the chance to view the Treasures of Kresen Kernow exhibition, featuring a magnificent manuscript from Elizabeth I and an 18th century Cornish language dictionary.

Since opening, we have been keeping busy! 2,000 plus researchers have been through the

doors to browse the extensive library, take part in activities and use the archives and books. We have welcomed familiar faces as well as many new visitors, including schools and university students, and people seem to be enjoying being able to research in a beautiful building with comfortable, modern facilities.

If you are visiting us over the winter, you can find out how John Couch Adams used his skills as a mathematician to discover a new planet. Featuring his original letters and papers our exhibition celebrates one of Cornwall's most inspiring heroes. Unable to visit in person? Our new website is www.kresenkernow.org with an improved catalogue and images from the collections. There is also a 'What's on' guide for further information about talks and activities taking place.

To keep up to date with our latest news, events and activities, find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @kresenkernow

*Deborah Tritton
Kresen Kernow Project Lead*

A Note From The Editor

Thanks to the wonders of current technology, the items featured here have criss-crossed between Cornwall and Toronto! As Carole mentioned, I am a member of the Toronto Cornish Association. In April we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a gala dinner at Toronto University Faculty Club. T.C.A member Barbara Gardner-Bray was our keynote speaker and we were entertained with Folk and Cornish songs by another T.C.A. member, Heather Dale. Heather is a Celtic music recording artist and touring musician. Check out her website: heatherdale.com

CALH Calendar of Events

16th January, 2020 (Thursday)

CALH Committee Meeting 4.45 pm.
St Augustine's, St Austell

7 – 8th March (Saturday – Sunday)

AGM & Spring Conference
Kilbernie Hotel, Newquay

9th April (Thursday)

CALH Committee meeting 4:45 pm.

16th May (Saturday)

Day out visit to Grampound

Each 5th March we join Cornwall in Celebrating St. Piran's Day and raise the Cornish flag at Toronto City Hall. We meet monthly for presentations, talks or an outing with a Cornish connection. For further information about us go to www.torontocornishassociation.org For postings and pictures on Facebook go to [www.facebook.com/TorontoCornish Association](https://www.facebook.com/TorontoCornishAssociation).

I look forward to receiving articles, photos, and items of interest to folks who love Cornwall and Cornish history.



*Newsletter Editor,
Marion Stephens-Cockroft*